

(19)

Europäisches Patentamt

European Patent Office

Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 1 321 744 A1

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

published in accordance with Art. 158(3) EPC

(43) Date of publication:

25.06.2003 Bulletin 2003/26

(51) Int Cl.7: **G01D 5/245, G01B 7/30,
H02K 29/06**

(21) Application number: **01965614.9**

(86) International application number:
PCT/JP01/07948

(22) Date of filing: **13.09.2001**

(87) International publication number:
WO 02/025216 (28.03.2002 Gazette 2002/12)

(84) Designated Contracting States:

**AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE TR**

Designated Extension States:

AL LT LV MK RO SI

(72) Inventor: **TSUKADA, Yoshinari**

Sayama-shi, Saitama 350-1381 (JP)

(74) Representative:

**Herzog, Markus, Dipl.-Phys. Dr. et al
Weickmann & Weickmann**

Patentanwälte

Postfach 86 08 20

81635 München (DE)

(30) Priority: **19.09.2000 JP 2000324704**

19.09.2000 JP 2000324705

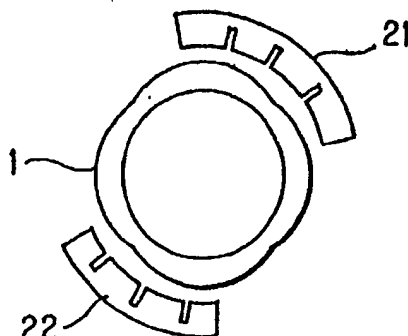
(71) Applicant: **Honda Giken Kogyo Kabushiki Kaisha
Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-8556 (JP)**

(54) ROTATIONAL POSITION DETECTOR AND MOTOR EQUIPPED WITH ROTATIONAL POSITION DETECTOR

(57) Is disclosed a rotary position detector comprising a rotor rotatable in synchronism with a motor and a rotary position detecting portion for generating a voltage signal corresponding to an angular position detectable as a magnetic flux change with rotation of the rotor, wherein the detecting portion is disposed with respect to the rotor within a range of an angle of $2\pi/n$, where n is the number of pairs of poles of the motor, and a

motor provided with the same rotary position detector, wherein a motor drive control circuit assembled together with the detecting portion at the same place on the motor. The rotary position detector is easy to manufacture, small and light, easy to mount on a motor and easy to connect with a motor drive control printed circuit. The motor provided with the same rotary position detector is also described.

FIG. 6



EP 1 321 744 A1

Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to a rotary position detector for detecting a rotation angle of a motor and a motor provided with the same rotary position detector, which operation is controlled based on its current rotational position sensed by the detector.

[0002] Generally, the operation of a brushless synchronous motor 4 is controlled in such a manner that, as shown in Fig. 10, a current rotational position of the motor 4 is detected by a rotary position detector 16 and transferred to a motor control circuit 17 that in turn performs the calculations based on the rotational position detection signal and an externally given torque instruction and controls the electric current supply to the motor through an inverter circuit 18 to obtain a specified output torque of the motor. In Fig. 10, there is shown only a configuration for one phase for clearness.

[0003] Fig. 7 shows a basic construction (for one pair of poles) of the rotary position detector 16, which comprises a rotor 1 composed of a disk type magnetic material attached eccentrically to a rotation axis (this corresponds to a rotor having a protrusion formed on a periphery of the rotation shaft and mounted coaxially on the rotation shaft of the motor) for converting a rotation of the motor into mechanically absolute position data, a stator 5 having 4 magnetic poles A~D formed at an equidistance at its periphery and opposed with a specified gap to the circumference of the rotor 1, a primary side exciting coil CL1 wound for connection in series of the pole pieces A to D, a first detection coil CL21 wound around pole pieces A,C disposed on the opposite sides and a second detection coil CL22 wound around pole pieces B,D disposed on the opposite sides to produce differential outputs at pole pieces A, B, C and D respectively.

[0004] Once an exciting voltage $V=A \sin \omega t$ of ac current was applied to the exciting coil CL1, a voltage signal $V1=A \sin \omega t \cdot \sin \theta$ is produced in the first detection coil CL21 and a voltage signal $V2=A \sin \omega t \cdot \cos \theta$ is produced in the second detection coil CL22. as a magnetic flux in a gap changes with rotation of the rotor 1. Based on each of the voltage signals V1 and V2, a rotation angle θ of the motor can be determined from a phase difference between the exciting voltage signal and the induced voltage signal.

[0005] In a conventional rotary position detector, a rotor is mounted on a rotation shaft of a motor and a stator is disposed with a plurality of magnetic pole pieces surrounding the entire circumference of the rotor. An exciting coil and a detecting coil are wound around an entire circumference of the stator.

[0006] The conventional rotary position detector is mounted on an entire circumference of an end of a motor. A thin, flat motor has a large-diameter rotation shaft and requires the use of a large rotary position detector

to mount thereon.

[0007] Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No. 5-252711 discloses a rotary position detector in which two yoke portions made each in the form of an arc opposite to the circumference of a rotor are disposed parallel to each other and coupled at the center by a coupler to form a H-shape yoke portion provided at each end with a magnetic pole piece projecting to form two magnetic circuits between each magnetic pole piece and the rotor at a permeance change phase difference of 90° , eliminating the need of surrounding the circumference of the rotor by the pole pieces.

[0008] Problems that are involved in the conventional rotary position detectors are as follows:

[0009] For a rotary position detector having a stator disposed with a plurality of magnetic pole pieces surrounding the circumference of a rotor body, it must have a large diameter sufficient to surround the circumference of an end of a motor.

[0010] For a rotary position detector having a stator disposed with a plurality of magnetic pole pieces surrounding the circumference of a rotor body, it must be mounted on the circumference at an end of the motor, decreasing the space factor and requiring the separate mounting of an ECU substrate for control of the motor drive. Particularly, a thin, flat motor having a large diameter shaft requires a large-size rotary position detector having an enlarged mounting hole.

[0011] For a rotary position detector in which two yoke portions are formed in that an arc opposite to the circumference of a rotor are disposed parallel to each other and coupled at the center by a coupler to form an H-shape yoke portion provided at each end with a magnetic pole projecting to form two magnetic circuits between each magnetic pole piece and partially surrounding the rotor body, the H-shaped detecting portion is elongated in the axial direction. The one-piece type H-shaped yoke portion may be achieved by a sintering or wire-cutting method, but it is not easy and rather difficult to manufacture. Two separate components of the yoke portion may be easily formed and connected with each other with screws or by welding. However, the screw or weld joint of the yoke portion may affect the magnetic path, thereby decreasing the detection accuracy of the device.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0012] Accordingly, an object of the present invention is to provide a compact and easy-to-manufacture rotary position detector which comprises a rotor having a plurality of protrusions formed at equidistances on the circumference of its body (the number of protrusions corresponds to the number of pairs of poles of the motor) and being rotatable in synchronism with the motor, and a detecting portion opposed to the rotor with a specified gap to the circumference of the rotor to detect a change of a magnetic flux in the gap while the rotor is rotating

synchronously with the motor and generate a voltage signal representing a change in rotation angle of the motor, wherein the detecting portion is arranged within a range of angle of $2\pi/n$ (where n is the number of pairs of poles of the motor).

[0013] Another object of the present invention is to provide a compact and easy-to-mount rotary position detector which comprises a rotor having a plurality of protrusions formed at equidistances on the circumference of its body (the number of protrusions corresponds to the number of pairs of poles of the motor) and being rotatable in synchronism with the motor, and a detecting portion opposed to the rotor with a specified gap to the circumference of the rotor body to detect a change of a magnetic flux in the gap while the rotor is rotating synchronously with the motor and generate a voltage signal representing a change of a rotation angle of the motor, wherein the detecting portion is disposed within a range of angle of $2\pi/n$ to the circumference of the rotor (where n is the number of pairs of poles of the motor) and mounted together with a motor drive control circuit at the same place of the motor to increase the space factor on the motor.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0014]

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a thin, flat type motor provided with a rotary position detector embodying the present invention.

Figure 2 is a front view of a detection head of the detector shown in Fig. 1.

Figure 3 is a schematic construction view of a rotary position detector of the present invention for a motor having two pairs of poles.

Figure 4 is a schematic construction view of a rotary position detector of the present invention for a motor having three pairs of poles.

Figure 5 is a schematic construction view of a rotary position detector of the present invention for a motor having four pairs of poles.

Figure 6 is a schematic construction view of a rotary position detector according to another embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 7 is a schematic view showing a basic construction of a conventional rotary position detector. Figure 8 is a schematic sectional elevation of a motor with a rotary position detector according to an embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 9 is a side view of the same motor with the same rotary position detector of Fig. 8.

Figure 10 is a block diagram of a conventional motor drive control system.

PREFERRED EMBODIMENT OF THE INVENTION

[0015] As shown in Fig. 1, a rotary position detector

according to the present invention is mounted for example to a thin, flat motor 4 having a rotation shaft of a large diameter in such a manner that a rotor 1 having a plurality of protrusions formed at equidistances on its circumference is concentrically mounted on the rotatable armature of the motor. As discussed below of protrusions on rotor 1 corresponds to the number of pairs of poles of the motor. A detection head 2 is secured to the stator of the motor 4 and opposed to rotor 1 with a specified gap to a portion of the circumference of the rotor 1 to generate a voltage signal corresponding to a change in the rotational angle of the motor by detecting a change in the magnetic flux in the gap as the rotor 1 rotates.

[0016] As shown in Fig. 2, the detecting head 2 comprises a yoke member 3 having four (4) magnetic pole pieces A to D formed at equidistances on its circumference and opposed with a specified gap to the rotor body 1. Exciting coils CL1 and detecting coils CL2 are wound around each of the magnetic pole pieces. The exciting coils CL1 and the detecting coils CL2 wound on the respective pole-pieces are electrically connected to each other respectively in a similar way as shown in Fig. 7.

[0017] Namely, the exciting coils CL1 wound around the pole pieces A to D are connected in series. The detection coils CL2 wound around the pole pieces A, C and B, D are connected in series to give differential outputs in turn respectively. When an alternating waveform exciting voltage $V = A \sin \omega t$ is applied to the exciting coils CL1, the detection coils CL2 between the pole pieces A, C generate a voltage $V_1 = A \sin \omega t \cdot \sin \theta$ and the detection coils between the pole pieces B, D generate a voltage $V_2 = A \sin \omega t \cdot \cos \theta$, which corresponds, respectively, to changes of the magnetic flux formed in a gap as the rotor 1 rotates.

[0018] It is noted that a multipolar motor does not always requires the provision of a detecting portion having pole pieces surrounding the circumference of the rotor 1 but require the provision of a detecting portion for each pair of poles. Based on the above, the detection head 2 of the rotary position detector is disposed within a range of an angle of $2\pi/n$ to the rotor 1 where n is the number of poles of the motor. Practically, for the motor having 2 pairs of poles as shown in Fig. 3, a substantially oval rotor 1 having two protrusions formed at equidistances on its circumference is used and the detection head 2 having magnetic pole pieces A-D formed at an interval of circumferential angle of 45° to the rotor 1 is disposed. In this instance, as shown in Fig. 3, the detection head 2 is disposed within a range of an angle of 135° with respect to the rotor 1.

[0019] For a motor 4 having 3 pairs of poles, as shown in Fig. 4, a substantially triangular rotor 1 having three (3) protrusions formed at equidistances on its circumference is used and the detection head 2 having magnetic pole-pieces A-D formed thereon at an interval of circumferential angle of 30° is disposed. In this instance, the detection head 2 is disposed within a range of an

angle of 90° with respect to the circumference of the rotor 1.

[0020] For a motor 4 having 4 pairs of poles, as shown in Fig. 5, a substantially square rotor 1 having four (4) protrusions formed at equidistances on its circumference is used and the detection head 2 having magnetic pole pieces A-D formed thereon at an interval of circumferential angle of 22.5° is disposed. In this instance, the detection head 2 is disposed within a range of an angle of 67.5° with respect to the circumference of the rotor 1.

[0021] For a motor 4 having 5 pairs of poles, a substantially pentagonal rotor 1 having five (5) protrusions formed at equidistances on its circumference is used and the detection head 2 having magnetic pole pieces A-D formed thereon at an interval of circumferential angle of 18° to the rotor 1 is disposed. In this instance, the detection head 2 is disposed within a range of an angle of 54° with respect to the circumference of the rotor 1.

[0022] For a motor 4 having 6 pairs of poles, a substantially hexagonal rotor 1 having six (6) protrusions formed at equidistances on its circumference is used and the detection head 2 having magnetic pole-pieces A-D formed thereon at an interval of circumferential angle of 15° is disposed. In this instance, the detection head 2 is disposed within a range of an angle of 45° with respect to the circumference of the motor 4. The same rule is applied correspondingly to further embodiments.

[0023] In the rotary position detector according to the present invention, paired detection heads 21 and 22 are disposed at positions symmetric with respect to the axis of the rotor 1 as shown in Fig. 6 and detection signals from the detection heads 21 and 22 are averaged by a separately provided processing portion (not shown). This can maintain the detection accuracy of the device since the effect of an error in a mechanically secured position of the rotor 1 is compensated by averaging of the detection signals. This is especially useful for motors having not less than 4 pairs of poles.

[0024] As shown in Figs. 8 and 9, a motor 30 is provided at a rotation shaft 31 with a rotary position detector in such a way that a rotor 1 having the same number of equally spaced circumferential protrusions as the number of pairs of poles of the motor 30 is secured coaxially onto the rotation shaft 31 of the motor 30. A detection head 2 is secured to a stator of the motor with a specified gap from the rotor 1 to detect a change in the magnetic flux with rotation of the rotor 1 and generate a detection voltage signal corresponding to a change in the rotation angle of the motor 30. Motor drive control circuit boards 61 and 62 are mounted together with the detection head 2. at the same position on the stator of the motor 30. Figs. 8 and 9 illustrate a motor having 4 pairs of poles, which motor is provided with a rotary position detector according to the present invention. In Figs. 8 and 9, there are shown power transistors of phases G, V and W respectively at 91, 92 and 93, electrolytic condensers 101-104, a power source connection terminal 11, a shield cover 12, a terminal/bus plate 13,

a heat sink/case 14 and a cooling fins 15.

[0025] The drive control circuit boards 61, 62 are mounted together with the detection head 2 at the same place on the stator of the motor 30.

[0026] The circuit board 61 contains thereon a motor control circuit 17 of the type shown in Fig. 10. The circuit board 62 contains thereon an inverter circuit 18 shown of the type in Fig. 10. Each of the circuit boards 61, 62 are shielded by the shield covers 71-73 respectively. The shield covers 72 and 73 are provided with inter-board connectors 81 and 82 respectively.

[0027] The motor control circuit 17 includes a converter for converting a rotary position detection signal from the detection head 2 into a digital data to be used for control of the drive of the motor 30.

[0028] The rotary position detector according to the present invention can be mounted effectively (with a high space factor) on a motor 30 in such a manner that a rotor 1 is secured onto a rotation shaft 31 (or an armature of a thin flat motor having no rotation shaft and a detection head 2, which is a simple and small yoke member 3 having pole pieces A to D formed thereon and having an exciting coil CL1 and detection coils CL2 wound around the pole pieces, is secured on a stator of the motor 30 opposite a portion of the circumference of the rotor 1. The detection head 2 can be mounted at any place on a supporting member around the rotor 1. This facilitates mounting of detector on the motor.

[0029] Furthermore, since the motor drive control circuit boards 61 and 62 can be mounted together with the detection head 2 of the rotary position detector on the same end portion of the motor 30, the detection head can be easily connected with the shortest wiring to the circuit boards 61 and 62 of the motor. This can improve the noise immunity of the detection system.

[0030] For a motor 30 having an increased number of pairs of poles, circuit boards 61 and 62 to be mounted together with the detection head 2 can be prepared of a square form with an increased yield of a substrate material.

[0031] As is apparent from the foregoing, the rotary position detector according to an embodiment of the present invention comprises a rotor having the same number of equally spaced circumferential protrusions as the number of pairs of poles of the motor 30 and a detection head portion disposed opposite to the circumference of the rotor with a specified gap between them to detect a change in magnetic flux in the gap with the rotation of the rotor and thereby generate a voltage signal corresponding to a change of rotation angle of the motor. The detection head portion is disposed opposite to the circumference of the rotor within a range of an angle of $2\pi/n$ (where n is the number of pairs of poles of the motor). This allows the detection head portion to be opposed to only a portion of the circumference of the rotor. The rotary position detector offers several outstanding advantages: small and light; easy to manufacture with an increased yield of material; and easy to assemble on

a motor with a high space factor and a wide selection of mounting positions.

[0032] According to the present invention, it is possible to provide a motor provided with a rotary position detector comprising the rotor having the same number of equally spaced circumferential protrusions as the number of pairs of poles of the motor 30 and a detection head portion opposed with a specified gap to the rotor to detect a change in magnetic flux in the gap with the rotation of the rotor and generate a voltage signal corresponding to a change of a rotation angle of the motor can be mounted on the motor, wherein the detection portion can be disposed within a range of an angle of $2\pi/n$ with respect to the circumference of the rotor (n is the number of pairs of poles of the motor) and the motor drive control circuit boards can be mounted together with the detection head portion at the same end in the motor body. This enables the motor with the rotary position detector to offer the additional outstanding advantages that the detector is small and light, easy to manufacture with an increased yield of material and easy to mount on a motor with a high space factor and a wide selection of mounting thereon, and the circuit boards of the motor can be easily connected to the detection head portion with the shortest wiring.

tween them to generate a voltage signal corresponding to a rotational position detectable as a change of a magnetic flux in the gap with rotation of the rotor, wherein the detecting portion is disposed in respect to the rotor within a range of an angle of $2\pi/n$ where n is the number of pairs of poles of the motor and a motor drive control circuit is assembled together with the detecting portion at the same place on the motor.

Claims

1. A rotary position detector comprising a rotor rotatable in synchronism with a motor, said rotor having a plurality of protrusions formed at equidistances on its circumference and the number of said protrusions corresponding to the number of pairs of poles of the motor, and a rotary position detecting portion disposed opposite the circumference of the rotor with a specified gap between them to generate a voltage signal corresponding to a rotational position detectable as a change of a magnetic flux in the gap with rotation of the rotor, wherein the detecting portion is disposed in respect to the rotor within a range of an angle of $2\pi/n$ where n is the number of pairs of poles.
2. A rotary position detector as defined in claim 1, wherein two detecting portions are disposed respectively at positions symmetric in respect to a rotational axis of the rotor and signals from the respective detecting portions are averaged.
3. A motor with a rotary position detector, said detector comprising a rotor rotatable in synchronism with the motor, said rotor having a plurality of protrusions formed at equidistances on its circumference and the number of said protrusions corresponding to the number of pairs of poles of the motor, and a rotary position detecting portion disposed opposite the circumference of the rotor with a specified gap be-

FIG. 1

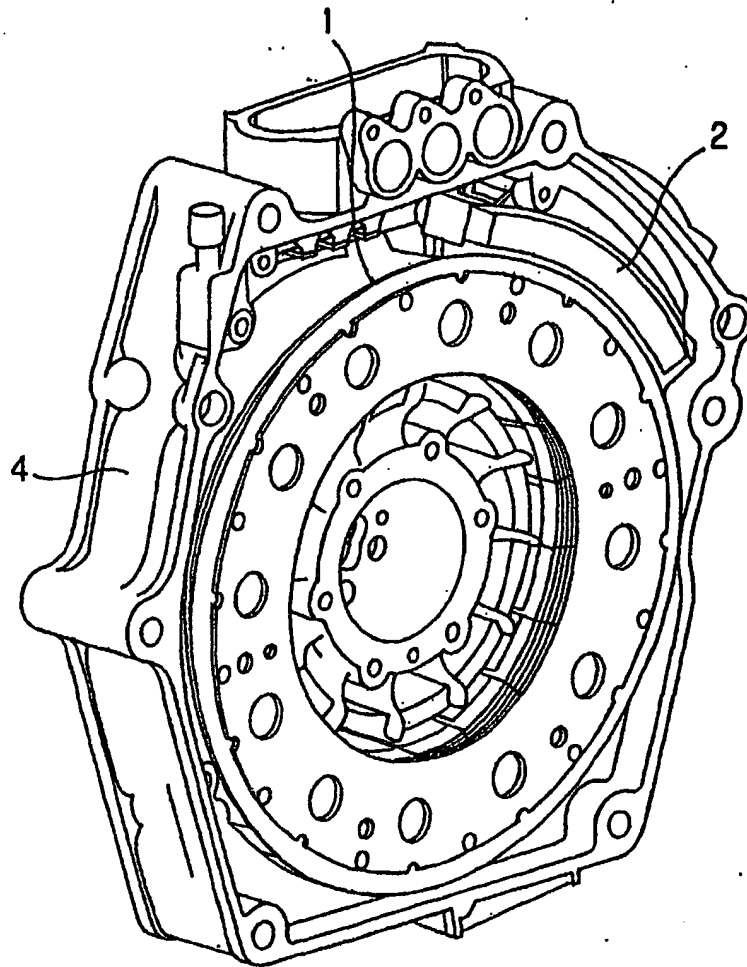


FIG. 2

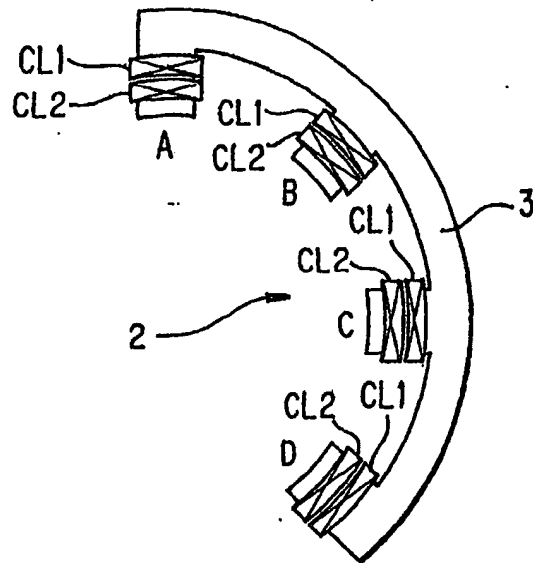


FIG. 3

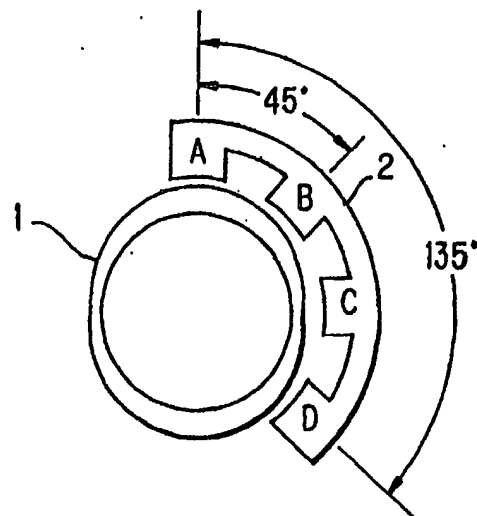


FIG. 4

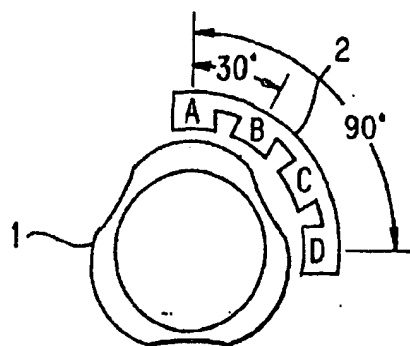


FIG. 5

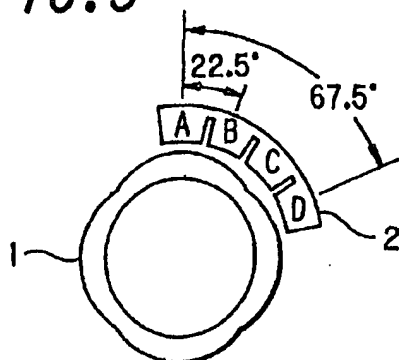


FIG. 6

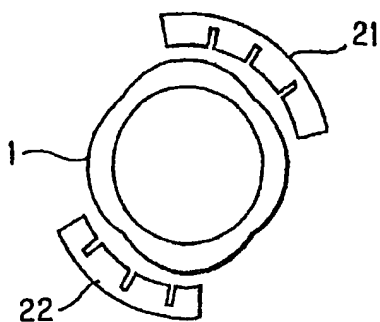


FIG. 7 PRIOR ART

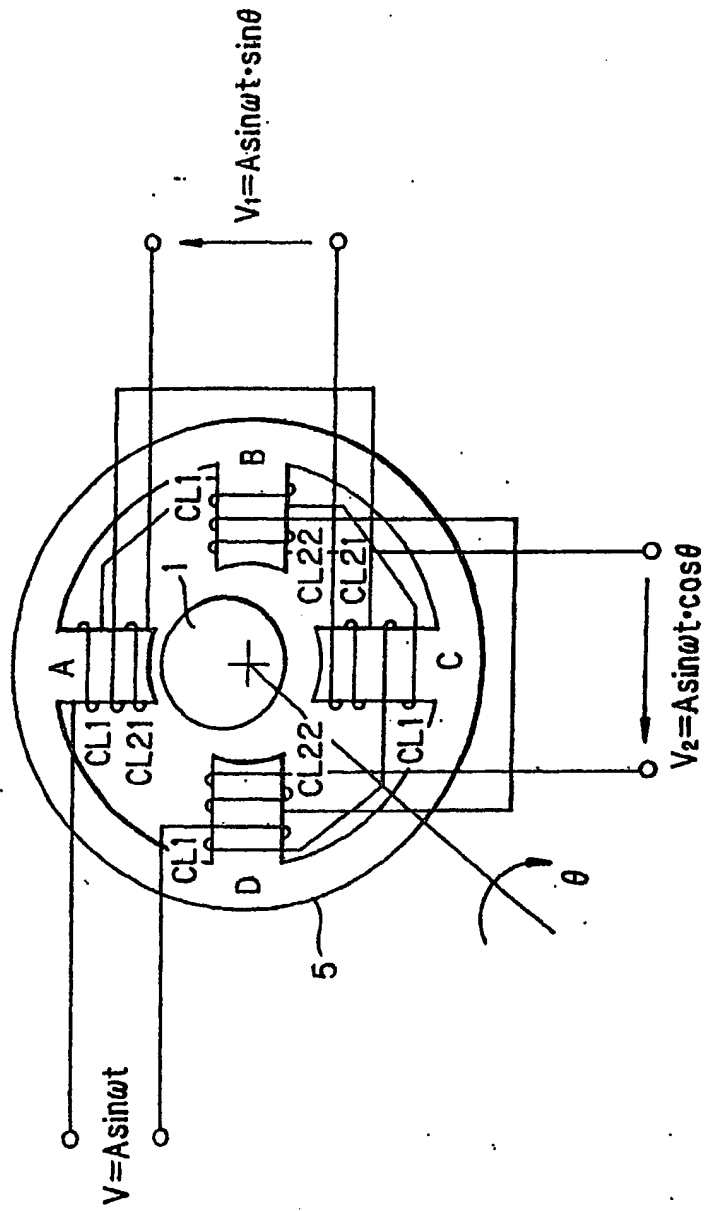


FIG. 8

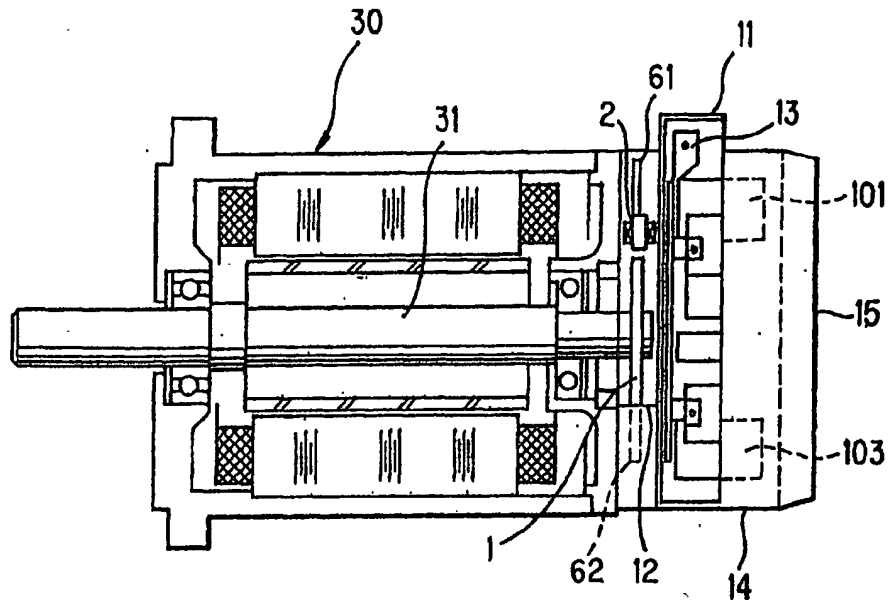


FIG. 9

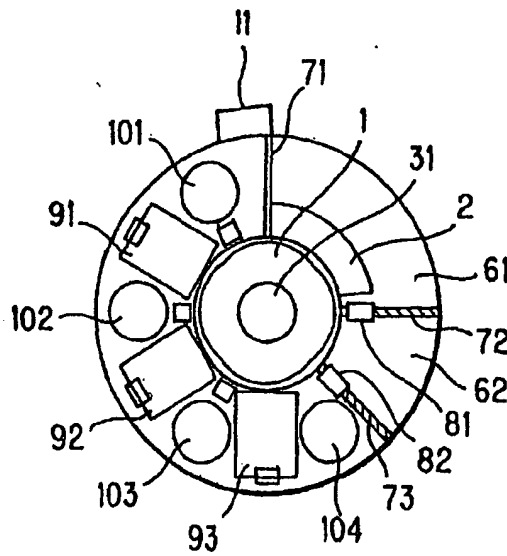
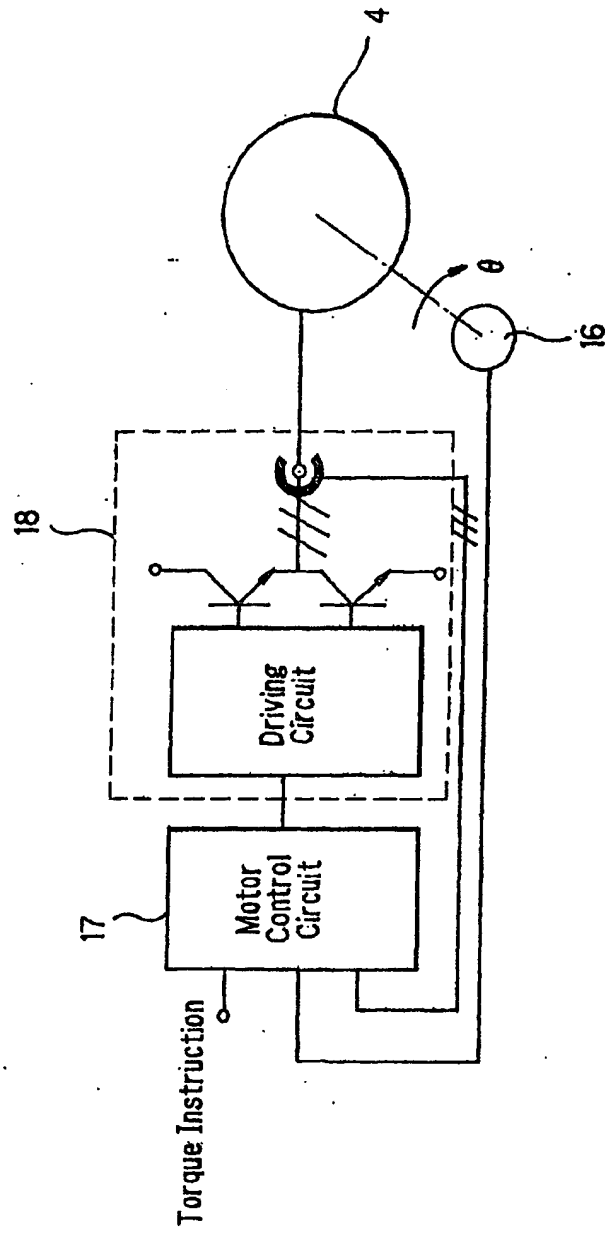


FIG. 10 PRIOR ART



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP01/07948

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER Int.Cl. ⁷ G01D5/245, G01B7/30, H02K29/06		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) Int.Cl. ⁷ G01D5/245, G01B7/30, H02K29/06		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1922-1996 Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1994-2001 Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1971-2001 Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho 1996-2001		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) WPI		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 746089 A1 (Toyota Jidosha Kabushiki Kaisha), 04 December, 1996 (04.12.96), Full text; all drawings & JP 8-331885 A & US 6025691 A1	1-3
A	JP 62-140020 A (NSK Ltd.), 23 June, 1987 (23.06.87), Full text; all drawings (Family: none)	1-3
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 19 October, 2001 (19.10.01)		Date of mailing of the international search report 30 October, 2001 (30.10.01)
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Japanese Patent Office		Authorized officer
Facsimile No.		Telephone No.

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 1992)